

John Marshall 2006 Conservation Awards

The John Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District hosted its annual Conservation Awards Luncheon on December 13, 2006 at The Inn at Vint Hill. Each year, the District recognizes individuals and organizations for outstanding conservation accomplishments. Award recipients for 2006 are as follows:

Jeff Adams and family - Walnut Hill Farm, won the Harry Jones Conservation Farmer Award for the Rappahannock Watershed this year. Walnut Hill Farm leases about 135 acres in Goldvein from the Victory Baptist Church of Nokesville. On this farm they run about 30 cow-calf pairs a year with the hope of developing their operation into a direct marketing operation for grass fed beef. Numerous conservation practices have been installed over the last two years.

Mary Fleming Thompson of Little Cotland Farm was presented the Harry Jones Conservation Farmer of the Year Award for the Potomac Watershed. In conservation projects carried out over the past two and a half years there has been almost 10,000 feet of fencing installed that protected almost a mile of stream. In addition, two hardened crossings and three watering troughs were installed and over 6 acres of riparian forest were planted to provide water quality protection and wildlife habitat.

Mr. Dale Spurzem, with William A. Hazel, Inc. was recognized as the Urban Contractor Conservationist of the year. Mr. Spurzem is the site superintendent for the Holtzman/Denny's site on Rt. 29 just north of Warrenton. This site is small, but challenging due to the topography, the amount of dirt to be removed from the site, proximity to Rt. 29, and potential for drainage problems.



Mary Fleming Thompson of Little Cotland Farm in The Plains, Ginny and Jeff Adams of Walnut Hill Farm in Goldvein, and David Muse and Dale Spurzem of William A. Hazel, Inc. were recognized for conservation efforts.